

by a certain Methodist outfit, and every effort was made to discourage the rebuilding of the mission. A temporary residence was secured for the Sisters, the priest had to be satisfied with boarding at a tavern or begging his meals from place to place, and Mass was celebrated on Sunday in the Council-House of the Indians.

To show their appreciation of the good work done by their missionaries and the good Sisters, the Osages, on the day following the fire, had voted sixty thousand dollars to be appropriated out of their own money, for the rebuilding of the mission, and they had set aside one hundred and sixty acres of land for the same purpose. The appropriation of money was never approved in Washington; so we had to turn somewhere else for help. It came again from the generous Miss Drexel. She furnished the plans of a new school-house to be built out of stone, upon a much larger scale than the first, and to cost \$18,000.

It took some time to get over the preliminaries of such a weighty affair, time of anxious expectation, pretty well filled in however by the exertions necessary to raise funds to build also a church on the same piece of land on which the school was to be built. In due course of time St. Louis school rose up from the ground, a building that would be a credit to any city and soon after a frame church of more modest architecture but not absolutely devoid of elegance, raised its cross-crowned spire towards heaven. But who can tell and who would believe the obstacles which had to be met at the beginning, and in the process, and in the end, and after the completion of this work. They came on all sides, and from some quarters where they were least expected, and assailed the missionary, putting his patience to the greatest strain. Not only material obstacles, but others too painful to bear anything more than a remote allusion, threatening several

times, at that critical moment, the very existence of the mission.

At last the work was completed. In spite of the ill-will of Government officials a first contract for the education of fifty Indian children was secured, and we had the happiness to see these first pupils with their parents and many more Indians assist at the solemn blessing of the new church on the 8th of September 1890.

This little church has since then seen a good many touching and edifying ceremonies: but never was it so crowded with an eager and appreciative congregation of Indians and White as on the last visit of Right Rev. Bishop Meershaert, the zealous and dearly loved Vicar Apostolic of the twin Territories. There was a large class of first communicants from St. Louis school, and some of the dear children had the happiness to see their parents partaking with them for the first time, of the bread of the Angels. They thought very light of fasting till late in order to receive Communion at the hand of his grace, during Pontifical High Mass.

At ten a. m. the Bishop proceeded to the church and was received at the door by the priest surrounded with his Indian altar boys who made a very creditable appearance in their bright-colored cassocks and lace surplices. Then came the procession of these young brides of a heavenly spouse, dressed in white, crowned with flowers and bearing in their hands lighted tapers, the symbol of the faith and love which was burning in their hearts. Who should address these lowly ones of the flock of Jesus Christ, but he who represents Him in this Vicariate? and with pathetic accents of piety and charity the occasion inspired him! Surely the day of a first communion is the brightest of one's whole life, as well for the humble children of the forest as for a Napoleon the Great!

In the afternoon the Bishop adminis-